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SRI LANKA REPRESENTATIVE ADDRESSES COORDINATING BUREAU

BK161145Y Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 16 May 78 BK

[Text] Sri Lanka has told the Coordinating Bureau of nonaligned nations that the situation in the Middle East and southern Africa is a serious threat to world peace. The Sri Lanka permanent representative at the UN, Mr B.J. Fernando, spoke at the meeting [words indistinct] in Havana yesterday. He said the countries taking part in the conference should exchange views and reach agreement on a solution to these problems. He added that a meeting was being held within the preparations of the conference of foreign ministers to be held in Yugoslavia in July. It will work out the strategy of the nonaligned group for the forthcoming UN special session on disarmament.

The meeting is expected to commence at ministerial level tomorrow, and the Sri Lanka foreign minister, Mr A.C.S. Hameed, will preside as chairman of the nonaligned foreign minister's group.

MALMIERCA GIVES RECEPTION FOR NONALINED DELEGATES

FL161126Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 16 May 78 FL

[Text] Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca last night gave a reception at the Museum of History in Havana City in honor of the experts who are participating in the meeting being held in our capital preparatory to the ministerial-level meeting of the nonaligned countries Coordinating Bureau. In addition to the Cuban foreign minister, the guests were hosted by Oscar Fernandez Mell, president of the Provincial People's Government Assembly; museum director Eusebio Leal, and other officials.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF EXPERTS MEETING REPORTED

FL171107Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1045 GMT 17 May 78 FL

[Text] The delegates to the sixth meeting [of experts] of the nonaligned movement Coordinating Bureau being held in the conference hall of the Habana Libre Hotel have agreed to recommend to the ministerial-level meeting which opens tomorrow that Cuba be chairman of that meeting, with Sri Lanka, Nigeria and Yugoslavia in the vice chairmanships and Jamaica as reporter.

The ambassadors and experts proposal includes Angola in the chairmanship of the political committee and Iraq in the vice chairmanship, with India as chairman of the economic committee and Niger as vice chairman.

The informal working groups that are examining the political and economic aspects of the final communique of the ministerial-level meeting met all day yesterday and will continue their deliberations this morning. The debates are being conducted in a cordial atmosphere of cooperation, without differences which might interfere in the normal development of work.

WARSHIPS EXPEL 10 FOREIGN FISHING BOATS

PY161559Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1516 GMT 16 May 78 PY

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 16 May--Three Argentine warships drove away 10 foreign fishing ships which had entered Argentine territorial waters, according to information obtained here today.

Responsible sources said that the fishing ships were found in southern territorial waters, according to information obtained here today.

The foreign fishing fleet was spotted by Argentine Navy planes and the naval operations command, with the acknowledgment of the navy commander in chief, sent two destroyers and a patrol boat to that zone.

The warships ordered the captain in charge of the foreign fishing fleet to leave the area. The fleet did as ordered, but no information was given as to the flag of this intruding fleet.

MONTES DISCUSSES SOUTH THULE ISLAND, PARANA ISSUES

PY161554Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2345 GMT 15 May 78 PY

[Text] Cordoba, 15 May--Foreign Minister Vice Adm Oscar Antonio Montes stated today that there is no misunderstanding with Great Britain about South Thule Island in the South Sandwich Island Archipelago, stressing Argentine sovereignty over the island.

Montes said that the installation of the Corbeta Uruguay scientific station on South Thule Island should not be an obstacle for Argentine-British talks, as long as there is a desire to hold talks.

Regarding the talks carried out among Argentina, Brazil and Paraguay on the exploitation of the Parana River, he said that a meeting among the three foreign ministers has not been discarded. However, he said, prior consultations on this matter are necessary so that the meeting will not fail. He said that consultations with Brazil and Paraguay must be carried out and that some studies to be presented to the military junta must be concluded.

Montes made these remarks at the end of a seminar held at the Women's Multinational Center.

HEAD OF SECOND BEAGLE DELEGATION APPOINTED

PY161851Y Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 16 May 78 PY

[Excerpts] The national executive branch has appointed Brig Gen Ricardo Echeverry Boneo (ret) as special ambassador plenipotentiary and president of the Argentine delegation to commission No 2 for negotiations with Chile. This is the commission which must find a definitive solution to the border dispute at the southern end of the continent.

Commission No 2 will begin meeting between 22 and 26 May in Buenos Aires and will have a 180-day term to submit its conclusions to the respective governments, which must ratify them through an agreement.

JUNTA'S TALKS IN GENEVA WITH PERONIST CGT FAIL

PY170043Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1558 GMT 16 May 78 PY

[Text] Paris, 16 May--An Argentine source stated here today that the negotiations carried out in Geneva between Peronist unionists and a member of the Argentine military government to obtain amnesty for all union members detained in Argentina have failed.

According to the source, the meeting included Argentine Labor Minister Horacio Liendo; the secretary general of the General Labor Confederation [CGT] in exile, Casildo Herreras; and a representative of the Peronist movement abroad whose name was not given. The source added that Herreras told Liendo about a complete refusal of the Argentine union leaders abroad to participate in any Argentine delegation to attend the ILO conference.

The ILO is the International Labor Organization headquartered in Geneva.

It was stated that the refusal will continue as long as the problems of military intervention of unions and freedom of detainees are not solved.

The source indicated also that Herrera's position as ILO permanent member will be given up to a social democratic Latin American union organization.

The Argentine CGT abroad apparently plans to give Herreras' position to the Venezuelan labor central.

The source added that Herreras also told Liendo that the Argentine unionists who are living abroad will ask for a world mobilization of workers for the reestablishment of democracy, peace and total amnesty in Argentina.

The CGT in exile has reported that it has established contacts in Paris with the labor force centrals (social democratic) and the French Democratic Confederation of Labor (independent socialist) in Brussels with the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions and in the United States with the AFL-CIO.

These contacts are aimed at an agreement to exclude the labor organizations of Chile, Argentina and Uruguay from the ILO.

Herreras, Hector Villalon, the politician in charge of the Peronist Superior Council, and other unidentified persons held a secret meeting with Adm Emilio Massera, one of the three members of the Argentine military junta, on 9 April 1978 in Paris.

This meeting was termed the opening of a dialog between the Argentine military regime and Peronism, the most important political force in that country, only 2 years after President Maria Estela Martinez de Peron was ousted.

According to an Argentine source, the CGT and the Peronist council agreed at that time to participate in a dialog, based on a broad political and union amnesty.

This condition was reported to President Jorge Rafael Videla in a telegram which Herreras sent on 24 March 1978.

BANZER SAYS VIOLENCE COULD LEAD TO SUSPENSION OF ELECTIONS

PY161828Y Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 16 May 78 PY

[Text] Bolivian President Hugo Banzer has said that the forthcoming elections of 9 July may be suspended if political and electoral violence increases. He said that the government is doing everything to guarantee the tranquillity of the country. These remarks were made by the Bolivian president during a program over the state-owned television network. Banzer has been in power 7 years and hopes to hand over the government to the candidate who wins the elections on 9 July. The Bolivian president also publicly stated his support for the official candidate, Gen Juan Pereda Asbun.

REPORTS CONFLICT ON DETAILS OF FALLEN OBJECT

PY161931Y Sucre Radio La Plata in Spanish 1630 GMT 16 May 78 PY

[Summary] We have received another phone call from our audience requesting confirmation of reports that an unidentified object fell in Bolivian territory near the Argentine border. We can only say that Argentine and Uruguayan radio stations are reporting on this even more frequently, saying that Bolivian authorities have urgently requested assistance from the U.S. National Aeronautics and Space Administration in order to determine the nature of that which crashed on a hill in Bolivian territory. Just a few minutes ago Radio El Espectador of Montevideo announced that there was uncertainty as to the truth of these reports.

Argentine sources indicated that the border with Bolivia had been closed but that it might soon be reopened. They also reported that an unidentified object had fallen on Bolivian soil near the Argentine border and that local Bolivian authorities had requested aid from the central government which, in turn, had sought assistance from the U.S. National Aeronautics and Space Administration to investigate the case.

A La Paz newspaper said today that there is great interest in learning about the nature of the fallen object, adding that local authorities for security reasons had cordoned off 200 km around the spot where the object fell. The object is said to be a mechanical device with a diameter of almost (24 meters) which has already been brought to Tarija. There is interest in determining the accuracy of these reports which have spread quickly throughout the continent, particularly in Bolivia and its neighboring countries. Is it a satellite, a meteorite or a false alarm?

ELECTORAL COURT WILL NOT SUBMIT TO FSB PRESSURES

PY151711Y La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 10 May 78 p 11 PY

[Text] Responding to a declaration issued by the national assembly of the Bolivian Socialist Falange [FSB] recently held in Cochabamba, members of the National Electoral Court have stated that "they have always been willing to resign their posts."

They warned, however, that they will definitely not submit to "pressures from political parties" and they added that "they know the path of dignity and will assume their duties at the proper time and that they are above human selfishness."

The position of the executives, alternates and administrative members of the Electoral Court was decided at a plenum meeting of all members of the court during which they decided to issue a five-point declaration in which they carefully detailed the reasons for the legal recognition of the various political factions which splintered from national parties.

The document centers on the FSB as a result of its severe warning issued in Cochabamba urging the resignation of the Electoral Court within 48 hours because of its recognition of a group headed by Gaston Moreira.

The document states that this recognition "is done in accordance with the norms adopted by the court in view of the lack of special laws regulating this issue. The fact that there are three FSB's, five National Revolutionary Movements, two Socialist Parties, two Authentic Revolutionary Parties, and others is the responsibility of the political parties which have splintered and not the responsibility of the National Electoral Court."

The document adds: "The National Electoral Court lacks the power to intervene in the internal problems of political parties. It regrets that the parties are divided because of personal issues, since in general the doctrine, principles, program of action, structure, name, abbreviation, sign and color of these parties are the same."

The members of the Electoral Court concluded by noting that they are fulfilling a civic duty by accepting their appointments and they have not made "debasing compromises in discharging their responsibilities." They "consider it an honor to have been convoked to lead the electoral process and from the beginning they have always been willing to resign their posts before submitting to the pressures of the executive branch or of political parties."

FINANCE MINISTER TO VISIT ARGENTINA FOR TALKS

PY162235Y La Paz Radio Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 16 May 78 PY

[Summary] Finance Minister David Blanco is leaving for Buenos Aires tonight to represent Bolivia at a high-level financial meeting. [begin Blanco recording] "I can announce that tomorrow evening, together with a delegation from La Paz, I will go to Argentina for a couple of days to talk with my colleague Martinez de Hoz about a number of issues concerning our two countries. It is in our interest to expand even more our present relations because this is outlined in our government policy, as I stated in Vancouver during my meeting with Minister Martinez de Hoz. In this regard, we will review all the agreements which have been made, particularly those regarding economic and financial issues and any others which will improve our relations. I will report to the public at the proper time about these issues." [end recording] Blanco and Martinez de Hoz will discuss a 16-point agenda which covers economic and financial fields, technical assistance, and bilateral relations.

PAZ ESTENSSORO'S MNR FORMS ALLIANCE WITH PRA

PY161616Y La Paz Radio Fides in Spanish 1130 GMT 16 May 78 PY

[Text] The National Revolutionary Movement of Victor Paz Estenssoro [Historical MNR] and the Authentic Revolutionary Party [PRA] have formed an alliance with the name of Nationalist Democratic and Revolutionary Alliance, to which the Electoral Court has assigned a pink-colored ballot.

FIGUEIREDO INTERVIEWED ON PARTY CANDIDACIES, AMNESTY

PY161742Y Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 15 May 78 p 6 PY

[Excerpts] Alegrete, Rio Grande Do Sul--Gen Joao Baptista de Figueiredo yesterday admitted the possibility that amnesty might be granted during his administration to those who were punished by the revolution, excluding "terrorists and assailants." He gave an interview as he left Alegrete after a 5-hour visit.

General Figueiredo spoke with journalists three times during the day. The third time, at the airport as he was about to leave for Uruguaina, he said that the process of political reforms could continue under his government if it were not completed under the current government.

Since weather conditions in Uruguaina prevented flying to that city, General Figueiredo had to make the trip by car. Before getting into the car, the general continued his conversation with the journalists. First, a reporter asked him how he viewed the candidacies of Senator Magalhaes Pinto and General Euler Bentes Monteiro.

Figueiredo answered: "I do not have any views. They must have their views on their candidacies because that is their problem. I already have enough with my candidacy."

[Question] And how do you view your own candidacy?

[Answer] I view my candidacy as an order received, which I will carry out, nothing else. I will try my best.

[Question] Are you expecting to win over the people?

[Answer] That is up to the people because I will not force them to like me. I am the way I am. If the people like the way I am, fine. If they do not, I am not going to change.

[Question] On this trip, did you find division within the local National Renewal Alliance?

[Answer] What division? There is nothing like that.

[Question] But what about Deputy Marchezan's refusal to be a candidate for the Senate and the stir caused by the appointment of Amaral de Souza as governor? Isn't this division?

[Answer] Not at all. Everybody has the right to think and believe what is best. At least I like to respect the viewpoint of others so that they will respect mine.

[Question] What is your opinion about the creation of new political parties?

[Answer] I believe that it is possible. Furthermore, the constitution states that our political regime is based on several parties.

[Question] But the PDR [Republican Democratic Party being created by former Vice President Pedro Aleixo] could not be registered because it must first enlist 7 percent of the electorate.

[Answer] That is right; it could not be registered because it lacks that 7 percent needed to comply with legal requirements.

[Question] Would you lower that requirement?

[Answer] I don't know if I will. Let's see what President Geisel does first. He still has time in his term and, who knows, he might still do something about this.

[Question] If you are going to govern under those reforms, shouldn't you be able to influence their preparation?

[Answer] I have already said that President Geisel is in charge of those reforms. I don't know whether he will complete them now, and what I am going to do depends on what he is doing now.

[Question] Is unrestricted amnesty impossible in your opinion?

[Answer] I never said that, but jurists did. If unrestricted amnesty were to be granted, then a bank robber would say that he had political motivations to rob. This is just not possible.

[Question] And would amnesty be possible with the exclusion of those cases [of purely criminal acts]?

[Answer] Maybe, provided terrorists and assailants are excluded.

GOVERNMENT UNCONCERNED OVER POSSIBLE OPPOSITION CANDIDACIES

PY162017Y Sao Paulo Cadeia Verde Amarela in Portuguese 1000 GMT 16 May 78 PY

[Text] The government is not concerned over the possibility of the MDB's [Brazilian Democratic Movement's] launching a military candidate--which could be Gen Euler Bentes Monteiro--or of the creation of a broad electoral front promoted by Senator Magalhaes Pinto to run against official candidate Gen Joao Baptista de Figueiredo, Planalto Palace spokesman Col Ruben Carlos Ludwig has said. Superior Military Tribunal General [name indistinct] and Joint Staff General Tourinho also tried to downplay that possibility assuring that the unity of the armed forces will not be shaken.

Through Senate leader Eurico Rezende, the National Renewal Alliance guaranteed that the presidential electoral college belongs to Figueiredo and the report that General Bentes Monteiro could run for the MDB caused nothing more than small ripples in the Congress. Colonel Rubem Ludwig also said that the candidacy of General Bentes Monteiro was the concern of the MDB and the general, not his, meaning, the government's.

Until yesterday afternoon, General Bentes Monteiro remained ensconced in (Sao Pedro da Aldeia), Rio de Janeiro State, where he told the press that he had nothing to say but that if he did in the future, he would be the first to call the press.

SATURNINO SAYS MDB MILITARY CANDIDATE UNDER DISCUSSION

PY161820Y Porto Alegre Radio Gaucha in Portuguese 1545 GMT 16 May 78 PY

[Text] Nothing has been decided, but MDB [Brazilian Democratic Movement] Senator Roberto Saturnino has confirmed in Brasilia that the launching of an MDB military candidate is under discussion. Saturnino admitted that he has met several times with General Bentes Monteiro.

BROSSARD PROTESTS DISRUPTION OF MDB MEETING

PT160340Y Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 15 May 78 PY

[From the "Congressional Report"]

[Text] Senator Paulo Brossard, leader of the Brazilian Democratic movement [MDB] in the Senate, today described the police action carried out against a meeting of the MDB regional board in Salvador [Bahia State], attended by national MDB leaders, as an abuse of authority and a brutal degrading action violating the law.

Supported by Senator Roberto Saturnino Braga [MDB--Rio de Janeiro State], who was an eyewitness to the incident, Brossard reported that the MDB had planned to hold a meeting at Dois de Julho Square to commemorate the 90th anniversary of the abolishment of slavery in Brazil and to launch the MDB senatorial candidates for Bahia State.

Brossard charged that the MDB was prevented from holding the meeting by a large group of police armed with machineguns, rifles, flamethrowers, tear gas and other weapons, and supported by trained dogs. He said that every action was taken to prevent the MDB board from meeting at its headquarters: That is, access roads to the MDB headquarters were blocked and members of the MDB youth sector, who had been distributing invitations, were arrested.

Brossard regarded this police action as repressive and illegal, since the constitution guarantees the right to peaceful meetings. He added that no official authorization is required to hold meetings, as long as the place of the meeting is reported in advance.

Brossard expressed his surprise over the police claim that it had acted pursuant to a Justice Ministry decree banning rallies, since this right is guaranteed by the constitution and since, through the MDB regional board, the MDB complied with every legal requirement.

After terming the event regrettable and deplorable, Brossard reported that MDB President, Deputy Ulysses Guimaraes, Senator Roberto Saturnino, Deputies Tancredo Neves and Freitas Nobre and other prominent national leaders were present at the MDB headquarters.

Supported by Senators Saturnino and Agenor Maria, Brossard stated that repressive police action is not in keeping with the principles and cultural values prevailing in Bahia State. He emphasized the difference between the treatment given to the opposition and the great [official] welcome given recently to the governor-designate for the state.

After harshly protesting this incident, Brossard said that it will endanger the government's proposed dialog to bring the national political situation back to normal.

AZEREDO WILL NOT ATTEND UN DISARMAMENT SESSION

PT161556Y Duenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1240 GMT 16 May 78 PY

[Text] Brasilia, 16 May--Brazilian Foreign Minister Antonio Azeredo da Silveira will not attend the UN extraordinary session on disarmament scheduled for 23-28 June. The announcement was made by Luiz Felipe Lampreia, Foreign Ministry spokesman, who pointed out that the Brazilian position is very clear: Brazil will continue seeking through its own representatives the reduction or limitation of nuclear weapons.

VIOLENT PROTESTS CONTINUE; SUBVERSIVE PLOT SUSPECTED

Clashes Reported in Medellin, Cali

PA170030Y Bogota Cadena Radio Super in Spanish 0006 GMT 17 May 78 PA

[Text] Medellin, 17 May--Violence in this departmental capital took authorities by surprise. Groups of extremists at the university campus set fire to two police vehicles and a university bus. The 4th Brigade command informed this station that groups of demonstrators built barricades protesting the night bus fare increases. Police with submachine-guns were needed to control the mobs which tried to reach the downtown area to sack stores. Three powerful molotov cocktails were thrown against a Bronco police car.

Meanwhile, in the southern part of Medellin, F-2 agents defused three bombs placed in garbage cans. Government Secretary Antonio Duke Alvarez said that no arrests have been made. Alvarez has been in constant contact with police forces attempting to control the situation.

At the same time, Cali is being rocked by violent clashes between students and police. The rioting began around 1830 when a police antiriot automobile was stoned by rioters close to the municipal offices. Two students were shot by a policeman. Also in the downtown shopping area violent rioting is taking place and several store windows have been broken.

Rioting Breaks Out in Ipiales

PA170054Y Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 0024 GMT 17 May 78 PA

[Text] Ipiales, Narino, 17 May--Rioting broke out here this afternoon and the military mayor, Maj Gustavo Parra Leiva, has imposed a dry law. Groups of university students, workers and employees arrived at the Narino central power installation but were promptly dispersed. It was said that three civilians were seriously injured.

The mayor has not revealed if a curfew will be decreed. This city, located close to the Ecuadorean border, was recently rocked by violence following power, water and sewage rate increases. The citizens of Ipiales are also protesting the increase in transportation fares. Several minibuses have been stoned.

Defense Minister Charges Subversion

PA170033Y Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 0016 GMT 17 May 78 PA

[Excerpt] Defense Minister Gen Abraham Varon Valencia charged today that a well-conceived plot exists in Colombia to disrupt public order with only a few days left before the presidential elections.

The defense minister made the statement at the close of the ceremony in which 24 ensigns graduated and three generals were decorated with the Boyaca Cross at the General Santander Police Academy.

The minister noted that the series of strikes which have been taking place for some time are of a subversive nature, the objective of which appears to be to sabotage the upcoming elections.

Restrictions Lifted in Bogota

PA170115Y Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 0030 GMT 17 May 78 PA

[Excerpt] Bogota--The government has lifted tonight the decree which imposed a dry law in the Bogota Special District on Sunday and Monday after 2000. Mayor Bernardo Gaitan Mahecha told this station that the exceptional measures imposed on Bogota during these past days were lifted today after the city returned to normal.

The mayor said that as of today the dry law decree after 2000 will not be in effect. Bicycles, motorcycles and other vehicles can operate normally in the city. He also said that those arrested for strewing tacks and stoning vehicles had been arraigned before the military institutes brigade, and that there will be no dry law in Bogota tonight.

Bogota Mayor Mahecha disagreed with the defense minister regarding the existence of a plot in Colombia to subvert law and order. He said that the strikes which have been taking place in the country during the past few weeks are activities by the labor sector seeking advantages within a democratic system. The mayor said that calm has been restored in Bogota and the rest of the country and that little importance should be given to the series of riots taking place which led Defense Minister Abraham Varon Valencia to denounce a plot to subvert law and order prior to the elections.

National University Closed for 2 Days

PY170421Y Paris AFP in Spanish 0353 GMT 17 May 78 PA

[Text] Bogota, 16 May (AFP)--The Bogota National University (state) will be closed for 2 days, starting tomorrow, as a result of last weeks' street riots, it was revealed here tonight. The measure was taken by the university's Superior Council, according to Rector Emilio Aljure.

Students from this university apparently participated in demonstrations protesting the increase in bus fares. Many vehicles were burned and stoned during the demonstrations.

Public Order Situation Improving

PA170351Y Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 0208 GMT 17 May 78 PA

[Text] A special cabinet meeting was held tonight to analyze the public order situation in the country following a series of disorders in various cities. National Defense Minister Gen Abraham Varon Valencia said at the meeting that the situation has improved considerably thanks to prompt intervention by the authorities.

GOVERNMENT WORKERS TO GO ON STRIKE 18 MAY

PA162357Y Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1730 GMT 16 May 78 PA

[Text] Bogota--The interunion committee for workers at the service of the state today confirmed the call for a general strike effective 0600 Thursday after stating that the changes introduced by the government to the decrees which establish new salaries do not satisfy government workers.

At a press conference held this morning, the leaders of the committee, which has a membership of 600,000 government workers, stated that the negative aspects of the government decrees--such as the meager increase in salaries, the withholding of severance pay, the cancellation of pay increases based on time in service and the disregard for union rights--are still in effect. Consequently, the union leaders added, we will continue to prepare for Thursday's strike, which will last 24 hours.

Meanwhile, President Alfonso Lopez Michelsen has convoked a special cabinet meeting this afternoon to analyze the country's labor and public order situation. A San Carlos Palace spokesman told this station that the cabinet meeting will be devoted primarily to analyzing the problem raised by the announced 600,000-worker strike which will be carried out on Thursday.

Government Modifies Wage Policy

PA170453Y Paris AFP in Spanish 0415 GMT 17 May 78 PA

[Text] Bogota, 16 May (AFP)--The government tonight modified its wage policy and the government workers' payscale in order to avoid an announced strike by public employees.

Backed by the four large labor unions, the public employees have decided to stage a 24-hour strike on Thursday, as they consider insufficient the salary readjustments recently decreed by the state.

The measures were announced after an extraordinary 4-hour cabinet meeting presided over by President Alfonso Lopez Michelsen.

The country's situation of social agitation was also analyzed at the meeting. This situation stems from the recent increase in urban transport fares and in the last few days has led to disturbances in several cities where numerous vehicles have been burned and a large number of persons have been injured or arrested.

Although the other ministers have remained silent regarding this last point, Defense Minister Gen Abraham Varon Valencia said laconically that public order will be preserved through all the means that the law places at the public force's disposal.

GOVERNMENT WELCOMES NEW TEXTILE AGREEMENT WITH U.S.

PA160047Y Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1730 GMT 15 May 78 PA

[Excerpts] The Colombian Government has made significant progress in the new bilateral textile agreement with the United States, but the restrictive policy of the United States will significantly affect the sale of completed garments to that market, according to the official report released here by the Foreign Trade Institute [INCOMEX]. The new agreement will be in effect for a period of 4 years, from 1 July of this year to 30 June 1982. It provides greater flexibility, which is to Colombia's benefit. Exports of chiffon and silk to the U.S. market were freed of general limitations, which will make it possible for Colombia to fully use its assigned quotas.

On the other hand, there was no change in wool exports. However, completed garments were limited thereby continuing the use of restrictions, as Hernando Arciniegas, deputy director of exports of INCOMEX, explained to this station. Any restrictive agreement which establishes quotas is not ideal, but in view of the need to guarantee this kind of export we believe that the new agreement has certain advantages, said Hernando Arciniegas.

NUEVA PUBLISHES REPORT ON HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

PA121619Y Paris AFP in Spanish 0120 GMT 12 May 78 PA

[Text] Quito, 11 May (AFP)--In its latest issue, the Ecuadorean magazine NUEVA carries a lengthy report on alleged human rights violations in Ecuador.

The magazine states that "although until a short time ago the Ecuadorean Government, unlike other South American military regimes, 'respected' human rights, today it seems to have chosen to be similar to those regimes in this regard." The magazine publishes statements by persons who have been arrested. In their statements, these people accuse the police of mistreatment.

Rosendo Moreno, a 56-year-old worker at the Aztra sugar mill recounts his interrogation by public security agents: "Oh, you are an agitator? [I answered] no and with the butt of a pistol they made three cuts in my head. They handcuffed me and led me with a rope. And so that I could wash off my blood, they threw me in the water canal."

In October the Aztra sugar mill was the site of bloody clashes between workers and police which left an official toll of 27 dead.

"They took me out of the canal," Moreno added in his statements to NUEVA, "and they hung me from a rack by my legs. Four policemen stood in front of me as if taking aim. You have 5 minutes to talk or you die, the police major told me. They united me from the rack and, bleeding, I fell to the ground. Again they began to mistreat me, kicking me all over the rock-covered ground. They demanded that I tell them where the leaders were...but I told them nothing. They continued to kick me."

Labor leader Julio Chacon, president of the provincial federation of Azuay workers, who was released from prison on 9 February and against whom a "new" arrest order has been issued, told the magazine that he had been imprisoned for 23 days "in a dingy, 10m-by-10m room. It was a filthy room with a communal toilet. They put up to 350 persons, including men, women and even homosexuals, in that room, holding them there under totally inhuman conditions."

"That is how I lived," he affirmed. "I did not receive food of any type except for what my relatives brought. All prisoners ate from it. The food would arrive and all the prisoners would rush to it. One got to eat a handful of rice at the most, even though it was one's own food."

Chacon told NUEVA that when he was released on 8 February an officer addressed him thus: "Chacon, next time it will not be 3 months; it will be a bullet in the head so that you will stop making trouble."

When asked by NUEVA about these alleged mistreatments, Gonzalo Karolys, president of the Supreme Court of Justice, said that he had no knowledge of them. He added that if he learned that the prisoners' rights had been violated, "the corresponding trials would have to be opened before the appropriate authorities. Our penal code," he added, "is very clear. There are sanctions to be applied in the case of those authorities, officials or employees who act against the security or integrity of other persons."

GOVERNMENT, FARMERS ANGRY OVER SUBMERGED LANDS COMPENSATION

PY130357Y Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 11 May 78 p 7 PY

[By Roberto Codas]

[Text] Asuncion--The discrimination in prices which Itaipu Binational will pay for the land which will be flooded by the reservoir behind the dam is causing profound dissatisfaction in official circles and among the owners of areas located on the right bank (Paraguayan territory) of the Parana River.

Based on current land prices on both banks, Itaipu Binational will pay more than \$1,000 per hectare of land on Brazilian territory and less than \$200 on Paraguayan territory. For this reason sectors who feel that they are being hurt indicated that "the flooding is permanent and that current price criteria do not take this condition into account." And they argue: "The land which today is worth less in Paraguay than in Brazil will be worth much more in a few years, and the price should be, therefore, at least equal on both sides."

Official sources also recalled that Paraguay not only deserves equal prices but also should demand higher compensation per hectare, taking into account the existing difference in its size as compared with Brazil. They stated: "For Paraguay, every hectare represents a much larger piece of its territory than what it represents for Brazil." This theory, of compensation proportional to the territory of each country affected by permanent inundation caused by the dam, has been defended by Paraguay, making the Brazilian position of paying different prices for the land on each side of the river offensive.

Asuncion government sources feel that it is an obvious "offense against the Paraguayan patrimony," because most of the population in the region to be flooded is made up of Brazilian immigrants who had come to Paraguay during the past decade seeking better agricultural working conditions, attracted by very fertile, unspoiled land and by better conditions for competing in the market.

Most of these immigrants are small farmers who were pushed from Brazil with the advance of the agricultural frontier and the expansion of great rural companies which purchased land in Paraguay with limited resources. Today these immigrants are relatively prosperous producers of soybeans, mint and beans. Some are also owners of large pieces of land on the Brazilian side, being able to deal in both countries with their produce, thanks to smuggling, thus obtaining the best marketing conditions.

BRIEFS

BRAZILIAN CREDIT AGREEMENT--It was officially reported today that the Banco de Fomento of Paraguay opened a new line of credit for \$10 million with the Banco do Brasil (Foreign Trade Department--CACEX). The funds will be used mainly for purchasing Brazilian capital goods--machinery and equipment for the country's agricultural and industrial sectors. [Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 3 May 78 p 13 PY]

STRIKES, PROTESTS AGAINST ECONOMIC MEASURES CONTINUE

Protests Reported in Various Cities

PA170124Y Paris AFP in Spanish 0047 GMT 17 May 78 PA

[Text] Lima, 16 May (AFP)--Various strikes and demonstrations to protest the government's economic measures took place today in the principal cities of the interior of Peru.

Arequipa, the country's second most important city, located 1,000 km south of Lima, was totally paralyzed by an apparently spontaneous strike that affected industries, businesses and the transportation services, including railroads. Several brief eruptions of violence were also reported, but police used tear gas bombs to disperse the agitators. One of these bombs exploded in a post office building crowded with people, causing many of them to become asphyxiated. Reportedly, numerous persons have been arrested.

Cuzco, the southeastern capital, is also paralyzed by a strike protesting the rise in the price of fuel and staples.

A similar situation prevails in Chimbote, Peru's fishing and steel center, located some 450 km north of Lima. Public transportation there has been paralyzed and several incidents have been reported. Apparently there are also several casualties.

In Huanuco, 420 km to the east, violence also erupted. Unconfirmed reports mention victims, but communications with that city have been disrupted.

With the exception of the 24-hour strike called by the Federation of Banking Employees, the situation in Lima was relatively calm today. But authorities have already warned that union that it should "abstain from carrying out new acts of violence" that affect the country's current emergency economic situation."

4 Killed in Huanuco Disturbances

PA170507Y Paris AFP in Spanish 0445 GMT 17 May 78 PA

[Text] Lima, May 16--It was officially reported here tonight that 4 persons were killed and 14 injured during violent incidents in the city of Huanuco, 423 km northeast of Lima.

The incidents occurred on Monday between police and demonstrators protesting the price increases decreed by the government. The Interior Ministry report released today indicates that Freddy Flores, Marcelino Flores and Peregrina Rivera died in the clashes on Monday. Another 14 persons, including two policemen, were injured. The communique added that today there was new violence, with Luis Acuna being killed in the disturbances. The communique states that order has been reestablished in that Andean city.

The government measures have resulted in protests in various areas of the country, but so far Huanuco is the only place that has reported casualties.

Situation in Lima Normal

PY170306Y Lima Radio El Sol in Spanish 0145 GMT 17 May 78 PY

[Summary] Private and public activities were normal today in Lima after the street demonstrations caused by the severe measures decreed by the military government. Peruvian commercial and financial banks were inactive today, however, in view of the 24-hour strike decreed by the 20,000-member Peruvian Federation of Banking Employees to express its rejection of the new economic measures.

The drastic reaction of almost all workers throughout the country was followed today by relative clam. Demonstrations had taken place especially in industrial and populated areas, where police had to resort to the use of tear gas and other measures.

As of noon today, four labor groups had not yet made any statement on the severe measures, which the government said were in line with the policy of economic reactivation to overcome the serious crisis the country is experiencing today. Politicians who were consulted on these measures expressed regret over their implementation, although they admitted that they were needed to avoid economic collapse.

The leader of the Popular Christian Party expressed his opposition to the cut in subsidies because this will put a burden on the popular economy. He said some prices are too high, with increases of up to 100 percent over the original prices.

Bank Employees Federation Warned

PY170329Y Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 17 May 78 PY

[Text] The labor administrative authority has declared illegal the unscheduled stoppage carried out today by bank workers. He warned the Federation of Banking Employees that it should refrain from engaging in further coercive actions.

The respective (?communique) indicates that the Federation of Banking Employees created the stoppage without having met with prior legal requirements to justify a 24-hour stoppage.

The federation called the stoppage to protest the recent economic measures adopted by the government and to demand the release of all workers under arrest.

GOVERNMENT COMMUNIQUE EXPLAINS CLOSING OF SCHOOLS

PY170326Y Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 17 May 78 PY

[Official communique No 005-78]

[Text] Regarding the suspension of activities at education and university centers, the people are informed of the following:

1. This measure has been enforced by the supreme government (?to prevent) extremist groups from taking advantage of the situation concerning the (?economic recovery) measures with the purpose of altering public order and attacking property.
2. This order is temporary and will be lifted as soon as the conditions which caused it disappear.

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3. Violation of this measure will be the exclusive responsibility of violators.

4. The government appeals to the members of the national education community, to the university family and the public in general to keep calm and respect the authorities.

[dated] Lima, Tuesday, 16 May 1978; [signed] Public Relations Office of the prime minister

RECTORS PROTEST VIOLATION OF UNIVERSITY AUTONOMY

PA162348Y Paris AFP in Spanish 2114 GMT 16 May 78 PA

[Text] Lima, 16 May (AFP)--The rectors of 18 of the country's most important universities (of the 33 currently in operation) today decided to ask the government to annul immediately a National Council of Peruvian Universities decree suspending all educational activities.

The measure, which also affects grade school and high school students, was adopted to avoid incidents in the wake of a marked increase in the price of staples decreed last Sunday by the regime of Gen Francisco Morales Bermudez.

The rectors decided to declare "the illegality of this suspension" of academic activities and protested "this new violation of university autonomy."

In a communique issued today they stated: "We feel that universities are free to resume their activities as long as conditions are favorable."

The communique was signed by the rectors of the most important Peruvian universities--which have a total enrollment of about 150,000 students--among them the University of San Marcos, the Agrarian University, the Federico Villarreal University and the Engineering University, as well as about a dozen other provincial institutions.

UNIVERSITY INSTRUCTS TEACHERS TO RETURN TO WORK

PY170337Y Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 17 May 78 PY

[Communique issued by the Enrique Guzman Ibanez National University]

[Text] By order of the management of the Enrique Guzman Ibanez National University and in fulfillment of what is ordered in the official communique issued by the Peruvian National University on 15 May 1978, teachers are informed that teaching activity, research activity, evaluation management [direccion de evaluacion] and those who are in charge of laboratory courses must return to work tomorrow, Wednesday, 17 May, on their regular schedule.

Management and service personnel working at the economy and management directorate; (?mining) [word indistinct] and laboratory, drinking water, etc should return to work on Wednesday, 17 May.

[dated] [placename indistinct], 16 May 1978; [signed] Dr (Jaime Rosado Bejarano), secretary general

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EL COMERCIO ON FOREIGN MINISTER'S TRIP TO WASHINGTON

PA140116Y Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 10 May 78 p 2 PA

[Editorial: "What the Foreign Minister Accomplished in Washington"]

[Text] The meeting between Foreign Relations Minister Jose de la Puente Radbill and U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance has produced positive results, as have the contacts made by the Peruvian high-level mission in the United States. Vance has expressed his government's "most decisive support for a prompt solution to the present difficulties" of our country. This aid will come through "bilateral channels and international organizations."

Although not much has been said, the outlook for the talks is favorable. These will be talks between representatives of two nations which are from the same hemisphere, but are opposite in their international economic and political systems. These talks are necessary not only because of our immediate domestic needs, but because of the world's critical situation, which are obviously interrelated.

The mission of the delegation headed by De la Puente is to relate "Peru's real image," which some sectors of the foreign press have at times distorted. U.S. official and academic circles have recently learned about the true situation and the strong measures being implemented to counteract economic and financial problems, as well as the steps being taken to return to democracy.

Carter's administration is known for its awareness of Third World countries' problems and for its untiring policy in support of human rights throughout the world. In view of this, we expect the U.S. officials to judge, based on their own true values, the effort and plans Peru has made to counter the ancient scourge of underdevelopment and to overcome its current crisis. Basically, this means being aware of the country's specific situation--in this case, the Peruvian--and at the same time all of the problems of Latin America and the Third World.

It is necessary to establish broad contacts between neighboring and distant countries in order to find new means of cooperation, similar to those being promoted by the U.S. Government in its talks with the Peruvian mission. This spirit of understanding is the road that could lead to a new international economic order in which justice will prevail.

TWO NEW NAVAL SHIPS SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE 17 MAY

PY161558Y Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 16 May 78 PY

[Text] Two new naval ships purchased in the Netherlands to replace obsolete ships will arrive this Wednesday. The ships are the cruiser (Bap Aguirre) and the destroyer (Bap Garcia y Garcia).

These new purchases are part of a program to modernize naval units by replacing obsolete ships.

CORRECTION TO STORY ON DEFEAT OF SUBVERSIVES

The following correction to the item entitled "Authorities Dismantle Another Subversive Organization," published in 11 May Latin America DAILY REPORT, K 1, should be noted as follows:

Second paragraph, line one, substitute "Tupamaros" for "Montoneros."

BRIEFS

TURBINES FOR SALTO GRANDE--Within the next few weeks the first two turbines for the Salto Grande binational hydroelectric plant will be arriving. The turbines were shipped a few hours ago from the Soviet harbor of Leningrad and are now heading for Buenos Aires. The turbines are not assembled; the assembling will be done at the site. The ship transporting the turbines will unload them in Buenos Aires for their transfer to special barges in the Argentine capital. The barges will go up the Uruguay River. [Montevideo Cadena de Oro del Interior in Spanish 1600 GMT 25 Apr 78 PY]

DIPLOMATIC MISSION TO ARABS--Uruguayan diplomatic representation will reportedly be established in Iran for the Arab countries. Uruguayan diplomatic presence in this area will thus be resumed for the first time since the Uruguayan Embassy in Beirut was closed 2 years ago due to the Lebanese war. [Text] [Montevideo Cadena de Oro del Interior in Spanish 1600 GMT 29 Apr 78 PY]

PLUNA PURCHASES 727's--Uruguayan National Airlines [PLUNA] and the German state company Lufthansa today signed a contract for the purchase of two Boeing 727's. Using these two new planes, PLUNA intends to extend its commercial flights to Sao Paulo, Brazil, and to Bariloche, Argentina, and in the future to Santiago, Chile, and Lima, Peru. [Montevideo Radio Carve Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 6 May 78 PY]

EXPANSION OF TRADE AGREEMENT--Brazilian Foreign Minister Antonio Azeredo da Silveira and Uruguayan Ambassador to Brazil Eduardo Zubia have signed an expansion of trade agreement between the two countries, which now allows Uruguay to sell goods to Brazil worth more than \$26 million. Uruguay was granted 110 new concessions worth \$15 million. [Montevideo Cadena de Oro del Interior in Spanish 1600 GMT 10 May 78 PY]

ANCAP REPORTS GAINS--According to official sources, the National Fuels, Alcohol and Cement Administration [ANCAP] made important gains in 1977. No official figures were given, but it was reported to be similar to 1976, when it was almost (?78) million. It was also announced that the Chevron firm has already paid the \$3 million fine for nonfulfillment of the contract signed for search of hydrocarbons on the continental shelf. [Text] [Montevideo Cadena de Oro del Interior in Spanish 1600 GMT 12 May 78 PY]

REFINANCING OF FARMERS' DEBTS--The Bank of the Republic will refinance the debts of rice, sugarbeet and sugarcane growers who lost up to 300 hectares of their crops. This is an important measure since it will encourage farmers to plan for future harvests. [Montevideo Cadena de Oro del Interior in Spanish 1600 GMT 12 May 78 PY]

SUSPECTED TERRORIST FIRE BOMBS FOUND IN MEXICO CITY

PA140353Y Madrid EFE in Spanish 0236 GMT 14 May 78 PA

[Text] Mexico City, 13 May (EFE)--It was reported today that, after the explosion of several incendiary bombs in two large stores in the center of the capital, the police discovered 16 more explosive devices before they detonated. The bombs, the characteristics of which were not disclosed, were found in four other stores and three bank offices close to the "Blanco" and "Astor" stores, which were the scenes of the first explosions. Army explosives experts deactivated the bombs and said that these bombs are part of a well-conceived plan to cause chaos by setting off explosions over a wide area in the center of Mexico City.

The 16 unexploded devices were found when the police searched the principal stores and private and government offices in the center of the city after discovering that the two fires had been set by incendiary bombs. Hundreds of policemen blocked off a large area of downtown Mexico City in order to work more freely and to facilitate the work of the firemen fighting the two blazes. The explosion of the bombs occurred before dawn and were triggered almost simultaneously in the "Astor" and "Blanco," which are only two streets apart.

Early this afternoon firemen were still battling the blazes which destroyed thousands of tons of merchandise in both stores, valued at more than 500 million pesos (\$21.5 million), it was reported. The fire department reported that two firemen died in the fires when one of the buildings collapsed. The Red Cross reported the death of six watchmen, although this was not confirmed. The fires caused considerable panic when the flames threatened neighboring buildings.

The fire department said that at least 10 persons were injured and 40 suffered from smoke inhalation. The police implemented an extensive operation throughout the city to prevent other attacks. Security in government and private offices and banks and stores was doubled. The police remained silent on both incidents and only briefly reported that two fires had occurred.

The explosion of the bombs evinced irate comments from labor leaders, who blamed the fires on "forces alien to the country which are trying to create chaos in Mexico." Angel Olivo Solis, vice president of the Revolutionary Workers Federation, did not discard the possibility that the bombs were the work of leftist terrorists. Other labor leaders connected the terrorist acts with President Lopez-Portillo's forthcoming visit to the USSR, terming them an effort to create an image of insecurity in the country in the eyes of the world.

Officials Comment on Bombings

LF162218Y Mexico City INFORMEX in Spanish to ANSA Buenos Aires 2102 GMT 16 May 78 FL

[Text] Mexico City, 16 May (ANSA-INFORMEX)--"The country's stability is stronger and more extensive than two isolated acts of terrorism," stated Mexican Interior Secretary Jesus Reyes Heróles in reference to the fires which destroyed two large stores in the center of this capital on Saturday, resulting in eight dead, seven of them firemen, and the loss of millions of dollars.

For his part, National Defense Secretary Gen Felix Galvan stated that "the army is able to confront any abnormal situation."

Since yesterday extra security measures are in force at public and commercial buildings in view of a veritable epidemic of telephone calls announcing the placement of explosive devices at (?various) and different locations in the Mexican capital.

Nevertheless, municipal Mayor Carlos Hank Gonzalez stated that it was not possible to determine that the sinister events were the work of terrorists, and he limited his remarks to what was being exhaustively investigated because "we do not want to give any information that is not based on proof."

Despite the caution by the government officials who are in charge of the investigation of these deeds, the almost total consensus considers these acts to have been the work of terrorists.

The overwhelming majority of the political currents in the country concur in linking these deeds to the visit by Mexican President Jose Lopez-Portillo to the USSR, which began yesterday, and they believe to see in these acts the ominous hand of the CIA.

Meanwhile, the primate of Mexico, Archbishop Monsignor Ernesto Corripio a Humada, stated that "violence is unnecessary and that it only engenders hate and more violence," and President of the National Chamber of Commerce Emilio Cano Escalante asked all businessmen to "maintain calm" in face of the acts of terrorism which wiped out the large establishments, the "Astor" and "Blanco."

The afternoon paper OVACIONES, citing sources close to police headquarters, published on its front page that the acts had been the work of a group calling itself "Union del Pueblo," but this could not be confirmed.

No known or unknown organization, group or movement has claimed responsibility for the acts, nor have any claimed responsibility for the so-called "telephone terrorism" which yesterday stirred up the police authorities.

Jorge Cruikshank, director of the Popular Socialist Party (PPS), which supported the candidacy of Jose Lopez-Portillo in the elections that brought him to power, stated without beating around the bush: "The terrorist acts are not accidental; rather they are incited by North American imperialism."

Nevertheless, the people of the capital are calm and life in Mexico is normal.

LEFTIST PARTIES COMMENT ON PRESIDENT'S TRIP TO USSR

FL151535Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 15 May 78 FL

[Text] Mexican President Jose Lopez-Portillo today begins an official 15-day visit to the Soviet Union and Bulgaria, accompanied by Foreign Secretary Santiago Roel and other high-ranking government officials.

Four leftist Mexican parties have pointed out that President Lopez-Portillo's visit will reduce Mexico's economic dependence on the United States. The Popular Socialist Party, the Socialist Workers Party, the Communist Party and the Socialist Revolutionary Party declared that the Mexican president's visit will expand relations in all fields with socialist nations and will mark another era in the country's foreign policy.

MINISTER EXPLAINS WORK ON TRANSFER OF CANAL FACILITIES

PA170151Y Panama City LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 15 May 78 pp 1A, 4A PA

[Franklin Bosquez d'Giovanni article]

[Text] Chief of Government Omar Torrijos has set up a working group which will study and make recommendations regarding actions to be taken after the ratification of the canal treaties in order to carry out Panama's duties as specified in the new pacts, Minister of the Presidency Fernando Manfredo told LA REPUBLICA today.

Manfredo said that the foregoing report was given during the General Council of State meeting held on 27 April at the request of Vice President Gerardo Gonzalez and in view of what Comptroller General Damian Castillo Duran said concerning the working commissions that should be set up to handle the various aspects of the administration of the still so-called "Panama Canal Zone."

Minister Manfredo added that this led to a meeting with Clifford Alexander and the Panama Canal Company Board of Directors during which talks began on the actions that would be needed for the orderly implementation of the treaties. Panama's representatives at the meeting were Rodrigo Gonzalez, Nicolas Ardito Barletta, Edwin Fabrega, Arnoldo Cano, Roberto Heurtematte and Manfredo. The meeting was held before the Senate began to discuss the treaties, and thus it was conducted "with extreme prudence and discretion."

"The meeting discussed the individual activities of each country and the joint activities that should be undertaken in order to establish within the shortest possible time the method of Panama's orderly, effective and efficient entry into the zone. Emphasis was placed on the need for close coordination between the authorities of the two countries."

The presidency minister stated that after the meeting General Torrijos created an expanded work group chaired by the vice president and including the aforementioned officials plus Nicolas Gonzalez-Revilla, Manuel Balbino Moreno, Ruben Dario Herrera and Nilson Espino. This group was reinforced by a technical team consisting of Augusto Zambrano of the Ministry of Planning and Economic Policy and Omar Jaen and Flavio Velasquez of the Foreign Ministry.

"This new expanded work group," Manfredo reported, "reached the conclusion that the first step necessary was the creation of an autonomous Panamanian state body to fulfill the responsibilities that the treaty sets forth for the Republic of Panama, to insure the rational use of the assets turned over to Panama and to promote and actually carry out the development of what was formerly the Panama Canal Zone. This Panamanian initiative had its antecedents in the actions that the U.S. Government had to undertake when the canal was built. In 1917, General Goethels wrote that the Canal Zone government was created to prevent Washington bureaucrats from impeding the speedy or flexible handling of the work needed for such a major effort. The same risk could be run when Panama takes over what was formerly the Canal Zone government and part of the activities of the Panama Canal Company. There is an additional problem that, even though in many cases activities that are similar to those performed by existing government entities are involved, the geographic location, the difference in operational guidelines, the wage scale and so forth do not allow for immediate integration."

The presidency minister stressed that he has not drafted a bill on the creation of the body which is still being discussed by the work group chaired by the vice president of the republic.

Another task is the standardization of the group's criteria on the content, scope and interpretation of the treaty clauses to prepare the pertinent legislation and to examine the legislation that the United States should propose to Congress because it is expected that the interpretation of the treaty will not "create causes of conflict" to frustrate "what Panama has achieved through the treaties."

Manfredo stated that the canal authorities have appointed work groups to coordinate the work with Panama and Panama has to appoint its counterparts.

According to Manfredo, the work groups mentioned include the following:

--The one that concerns lands and waters which would draw up the blueprints of the areas to be returned to Panama and those earmarked for the operation of the canal and its protection. It also has to deal with setting rules for the use of lands and waters. Part of that stems from treaty provisions concerning current consumers.

--Another group called "business administration" has the responsibility of deciding on the transfer to Panama of enterprises and business activities such as ports, the railroad, cafeterias, supermarkets, bowling alleys, theaters, gasoline stations and so forth, and matters related to the continuation of their operations such as concessions, mixed income, cooperatives, state-run enterprises and so forth. It would also be in charge of housing which, according to the treaty, will continue to be used by the workers and that which will be turned over to Panama to be sold or rented. This group will study the various alternatives. It will consider transferring to Panamanian jurisdiction the private organizations which are currently operating in the zone under American laws, as set forth in the treaty. It is necessary to create the pertinent legislation and rules.

--Still another group will study public services, governmental and intergovernmental. It will study everything concerning power, communications, water, roads, trash collection, drainage and a number of other public service activities and how those services are to be provided. "These activities are now carried out by the Canal Zone government and we hope to carry them out more efficiently and at a lower cost."

--Yet another group will study the matter of transferring the fire department, post offices, sanitation and health services and the grievances committee. Another group will have to deal with matters such as the formulation of rules on import privileges, documentation, limitations, violations and so forth which are applicable to canal's American workers, the issuing of drivers licenses, registration of vehicles, ships and aircraft. One group will have to work on the elaboration of treaty provisions concerning the conservation of the environment, especially the hydrographic basin.

Manfredo stated that several of these groups will have to begin work at once because the Canal Zone is ready to do its part and counterparts have to be appointed. "The most important thing is to appoint people who are really competent and who can work full time. The committee will request the appointment of those people, who should already be singled out."

The presidency minister said that the General Council of State meeting viewed the activities that will have to be carried out jointly with the Canal Zone authorities. "Activities remain pending which we will have to take care of by ourselves, such as the measures for the protection of all that will be turned over and returned to us, the planning of the development and use of the goods, chattels and real estate within the selected framework, the political division of the area that is jurisdictionally reincorporated, and so forth."

Manfredo stressed that he hopes he has made it clear that we are faced with a major responsibility and that there is a very important task still to be carried out which will require much dedication and serious effort and, as the vice president of the republic put it, Panama will enter into the zone at the pace at which we are capable of preparing ourselves because this is set forth in the treaty.

"The negotiators did their share. It is now up to us to complete the work and materialize the Panamanian people's supreme aspiration: to enter the zone and assume full jurisdiction," Manfredo concluded.

COLON STUDENT LEADER CRITICIZES PRESIDENT LAKAS

PA161517Y Panama City DOMINICAL in Spanish 14 May 78 p 3A PA

[Text] Colon, 12 May--The student movement of Colon is making two demands which must be satisfied immediately: one, that President Demetrio Lakas "cease to meddle in the student movement," and the other, that "he leave Colon quickly and never return because he does not represent the interests of our people."

LA REPUBLICA visited the office of the Federation of Panamanian Students (FEP), Colon chapter, located on 6th Street in this Atlantic coast city, where the secretary for activities of the FEP Executive Council, Luis Alberto Sinclair, informed us about everything that has occurred since 2 May. Several representatives of other Colon schools were also present.

The FEP leader added that President Lakas is only "momentarily" satisfying the needs of our people. "It is impossible for Lakas to solve the needs of our people by handing out money right and left every Wednesday," he said.

The FEP leader told how on 2 May the student federation, with the participation of several schools of Colon, had been forced to express several of the students' claims. He stated that "these demands were not born today," but [they have existed] since the very creation of the Cativa Technical Professional Institute (ITPC). The same thing occurred at the Rufo A. Garay School, which was originally set up as a traditional high school and later converted into a technical-professional institution by the new education reform programs. The transformation was only made in theory since the instruments and technological apparatus that were necessary for classes never arrived at the school and it was on this fact that the claims were based.

"In the 10 years since the revolutionary process began, Colon has been given little. Nothing has been felt or seen," stressed Sinclair, adding that "hunger, poverty, unemployment and housing shortages are problems that have yet not been solved. Development programs for Colon do not respond to the real needs of the people, but rather to the needs of businessmen. This is a condition that our people have not accepted and will not accept."

Continuing his explanation, student Sinclair said that on 4 May a peaceful group of demonstrators went to the Colon post office in order to send a telegram to Commander Torrijos, inviting him to visit Colon to provide concrete solutions to its problems. "But what happened?" Sinclair asked. "We were repressed by the National Guard for no justifiable reason. Nevertheless, we declare that we are not the enemies of the revolutionary process or of the National Guard, even though shots were fired, hoses were used and several student leaders were arrested."

According to Sinclair, all channels for dialog and discussion with Commander Torrijos were closed in the wake of this repression. "Last Monday, while several leaders talked with Torrijos at his house in Farallon, elements infiltrated the student movement and ultraleftists provoked the acts we have all heard about: vandalism, stone-throwing and other actions. One curious thing is the fact that the institutions most heavily attacked were the regional offices of the Agricultural Development Ministry and the National Telecommunications Institute. We understand that this was an enemy plan to bring students into conflict with the military. But the students did not respond to these provocations. The National Guard did not react as it should have and began to attack not only the students, but all the people of Colon with tear gas and hoses," Sinclair said.

He added that while in Farallon, upon learning of the disorders, Torrijos issued orders to end the repression. Sinclair stressed that it had been President Lakas himself who had ordered the attacks by the National Guard since the chief of the second military zone had not been following the orders of any superior officer. "Who was the only one who could have ordered the attacks?" Sinclair again asked, adding that proof against Lakas was the meeting he held at the Washington Hotel a day before the repression. "On this occasion, President Lakas told the principals of all the government schools of the province that student demands could not continue and that if we continued with these demands, we would be suppressed," he added.

The housing complex that will be built at Fort de Lesseps for the exclusive use of the Colon Free Zone businessmen is an example of President Lakas' policy, which is unfavorable to the interests of the majority of the people.

Regarding the problem of brothels, the FEP leader noted that 200 of the 400 prostitutes that were hired have already arrived.

"Several brothels have already reopened. Our mothers and friends will be confused with these women," he pointed out.

"The main problem of our people," he added, "is the lack of employment. There is talk of building many homes. But how can those who have no work or income pay for costly housing? Nobody in Colon wants to live in condemned houses. Nobody--and it would be illogical to think otherwise--wants to share his home with rats, cockroaches and fleas," observed student Sinclair in an excited voice.

COSTA RICA

FOREIGN MINISTER ANNOUNCES REDUCTION IN EMBASSIES

PA161240Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0417 GMT 16 May 78 PA

[Text] San Jose, Costa Rica, 15 May (ACAN-EFE)--In line with President Rodrigo Capazo's policy of reducing fiscal expenditures, only 18 Costa Rican diplomatic missions will be headed by ambassadors. The remaining 22 missions will operate at a reduced level with fewer officials. This was announced this afternoon by Foreign Minister Rafael A. Calderon.

It has been decided that there will be some "regional embassies" that will handle Costa Rica's affairs in several countries. For example, in the Far East there will only be an embassy in Japan; in the Middle East, only in Israel; and in Europe, there will be embassies only in Spain, France, the Federal Republic of Germany, Belgium and the United Kingdom.

In South America there will be embassies in Argentina, Brazil and Venezuela. The government is considering where the fourth embassy in South America will be.

The embassies in countries of the Central American isthmus and Mexico and the United States escaped the reduction. The embassies in Panama and Venezuela will handle Costa Rica's affairs in the Caribbean countries.

GUATEMALA

PRESIDENT RECOMMENDS REGISTRATION OF NEW PARTIES

PA161755Y Guatemala City Radio Fabulosa Network in Spanish 1220 GMT 16 May 78 PA

[SERCANO Network]

[Text] The president of the republic, General Laugerud Garcia, has sent a note to the director of the Electoral Registry recommending the registration of new political parties. The president's decision is based on the demands of the people, who have expressed the opinion that the traditional parties do not satisfy their expectations.

According to statistics kept since 1970, voter abstention has been increasing. Guatemalan voters are limited to a choice of four traditional political parties: the rightist or anticommunist National Liberation Movement, the center-leftist Guatemalan Christian Democracy, the centrist Democratic Institutional Party and the center-leftist Revolutionary Party.

It is officially believed that the registration of new political parties is healthy and essential for public order and that it will also represent a remarkable step forward in the democratization of the country.

There was much criticism of the government in the recent presidential elections because various political groups did not participate. In the end, these groups urged citizens not to participate in the election. The degree of abstention and the number of blank votes were considerable.

NICARAGUA

GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCES COMPLIANCE WITH PARENTS' REQUESTS

PA161220Y Managua NOVEDADES in Spanish 12 May 78 p 5 PA

[Communique issued by the Secretariat of Information and Press on 11 May 1978]

[Text] The Secretariat of Information and Press of the presidency of the republic hereby informs Nicaraguans that the president of the republic, Maj Gen Anastasio Somoza, has complied with the requests presented to him by the directorate of the National Confederation of Parents Associations on 28 April.

1. An end to the isolation of Tomas Borge and Marcio Jaen. Done.
2. Release of Maria del Carmen Gomez. Done. She is in her home in Nagarote.
3. Transfer to the Modelo prison of those prisoners who have already been sentenced and who remain at police headquarters. Done. Male prisoners who were imprisoned at police headquarters have already been transferred to the Modelo prison. Improvements and remodeling of the police headquarters as recommended by Red Cross officials have already been initiated. The work may be completed by Tuesday of next week.
4. Acceleration of court proceedings for prisoners who have been indicted but not brought to trial. Done. The most excellent Supreme Court of Justice has issued the corresponding instructions to the courts.
5. Prompt resolution of conflicts which have occurred at the Masaya National Institute. Done. Ariel Gonzalez Gonzalez and Manual Villagra Jimenez have been appointed directors for the afternoon and evening shifts respectively, and new professors have been appointed.
6. Solution of the problem at the National Agriculture and Livestock School by reinstating professors who were dismissed and reopening classes. The professors have presented their formal applications to the management of INTA [not further identified] through the director of the National Agriculture and Livestock School. It was decided that a ruling on these applications would be announced on Saturday, 13 May, at 1000.
7. Release without reprisals of students who participated in the strike and in the occupation of high schools. Done. The students were released, with the exception of six who are being investigated to determine their culpability under our laws.
8. Presidential authorization for teaching authorities, in conjunction with delegations of parents and students from each school, to have primary responsibility for the resolution of internal problems, with appeal to the Public Education Ministry, the Confederation of Parents Associations and students organizations. Done. The president has authorized parents and students to organize in conformity with the regulations of the Public Education Ministry, with parents being responsible for their children, thereby reaffirming freedom of organization.

EDUCATION MINISTRY TO APPLY DISCIPLINARY MEASURES

PA161811Y Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0330 GMT 16 May 78 PA

[Text of communique issued by Public Education Ministry]

[Text] The Public Education Ministry informs the public, parents and high school students that, concerned with raising the cultural level of the people and particularly that of the students, the ministry has tirelessly tried to stabilize the activities of the present school year and that, after the fulfillment--through the joint efforts of His Excellency the President of the Republic Division Gen Anastasio Somoza Debayle, conscientious parents and Public Education Ministry officials--of all demands made by the students, who were asked to change their attitude and to resume normal studies, there still remain intransigent minority groups that are trying to harm the majority of the students who desire to benefit from the present school year. Therefore, this ministry is compelled to make the following statements and adopt the following measures:

- A. Since the high school students are no longer making demands of an educational nature but have instead invaded the political field, an action prohibited by general high school regulations, and since the attitude of these minority groups is not beneficial to the rest of the students, the ministry will be forced to apply the appropriate sanctions.
- B. The ministry has decided to stabilize the present school year by computing students' absences according to the general high school regulations.
- C. Therefore, any student whose absences exceed the number allowed by regulations or who does not behave as a student should will be punished as prescribed by law.
- D. The ministry urges all parents to contribute to its efforts by better controlling their children so that the present school year will not be lost.

Issued in Managua, National District, on 15 May 1978

Public Relations Office of the Public Education Ministry

CARLOS RAFAEL RODRIGUEZ ADDRESSES CEMA MEETING

FL162026Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1832 GMT 16 May 78 FL

[Roberto Perez Sanchez report]

[Text] The eighth meeting of the CEMA committee for technical and material supply, which will meet through Thursday, has opened at Hotel Atlantico in Santa Maria del Mar with the attendance of PCC Politburo member Carlos Rafael Rodriguez. The opening remarks were made by Nikolay Valdimir Martynov, who presides over the event and who stated that the meeting is taking place at a time when Cuba's economic development is firm and growing. Following this, he referred to CEMA cooperation in establishing various important industries in Cuba and pointed out that the meeting's agreements will surely contribute to the development of the national economy and the achievement of new successes in scientific and technical cooperation.

The USSR, the GDR, Bulgaria, Poland and Hungary are participating in the meeting, along with Romania, Mongolia, Czechoslovakia and Cuba.

In closing remarks at the opening session of the meeting, Carlos Rafael Rodriguez pointed out that this event coincides with the presence in Havana of the nonaligned Coordinating Bureau members. Carlos Rafael Rodriguez stated that shows Cuba as both a socialist country and its integration into the group of developing countries which are joined in the nonaligned movement.

Following this he made an analysis of the economic crisis in the capitalist countries and referred to the consequences this produces for the underdeveloped countries which have not been able to escape from that sphere and live under that system. Carlos Rafael Rodriguez showed how Cuba, integrated into socialism, has worked for 20 years and has overcome, although not completely, the structural deformations which were left to us by capitalist oppression, which followed Spanish colonialism.

In speaking at the plenum of the eighth meeting of the CEMA committee on technical and material supply cooperation which began today in Havana, Carlos Rafael Rodriguez stated that it is not possible to visit a single place today in Cuba without finding signs of cooperation by the countries participating at this event. He added that the meeting is of great significance to Cuba because our country is now involved in completing the economic tasks agreed to at our party's first congress. Later Carlos Rafael Rodriguez stated that it is natural that our experiences with your cooperation in the field of technical and material supply have been decisive. If planning is an indisputable requisite for developing a socialist economy, he added, scientific regulation of technical and material supply is at the base of a planned economy itself.

The cooperation given to Cuba by the CEMA members to discover new resources will constitute an appreciable contribution to the Cuban economy, stated Carlos Rafael Rodriguez. Referring to the opening remarks by the meeting's chairman, the PCC Politburo member spoke of the two important historical dates which will be celebrated in Cuba--the 26th of July and the 11th World Youth and Students Festival.

In his closing remarks Carlos Rafael Rodriguez praised the sense of fraternity among the delegations attending the meeting in Cuba, which he called a show of CEMA socialist assistance.

After this the meeting recessed for a brief time and then began with the first work session at the specialist level.

RADIO EXCORIATES MILITARY AID TO SOUTH AFRICA

FL161243Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1045 GMT 16 May 78 FL

[Revolutionary Armed Forces and Interior Ministry combatants' political information program commentary]

[Text] The arms race has escalated considerably in recent years despite the efforts made, primarily by the Soviet Union and socialist community, in the field of detente and for disarmament. This fact, which contradicts mankind's desire to live in a world of peace, demonstrates the way in which the Western powers do business at the expense of the security of the world's population.

The real military expenditures by the Washington government, for example, exceed \$133 billion while it produces and exports to reactionary regimes enormous quantities of equipment and arms which complicate the already tense international situation, endangering peace and security in the world. The member countries of the bellicose NATO bloc annually spend \$166 billion on arms and, like the United States, they maintain the closest collaboration with all types of oppressive regimes.

An example of such assistance is that which the Western powers give to the South African racist regime. The apartheid system, with which an insignificant white minority oppresses more than 14 million Africans, has the economic, political and military backing of the principal capitalist countries. The supply of sophisticated weapons, transport means and equipment to the South African regime, directly or through intermediaries, constitutes a violation of the sanctions ordered by the United Nations against Pretoria. And almost all the capitalist nations that are members of NATO and some of its satellites, as is the case of Israel, are involved in this violation.

It has been charged since early this year that the South African regime is preparing to build atomic bombs in the near future. These plans have the direct aid of some imperialist powers.

South Africa's expansionist, neocolonialist and racist policy--demonstrated by the illegal occupation of Namibia, the attack on Angola and the repression of South African patriots--is sustained by the support which the apartheid system receives from the United States and its NATO partners. The violation of UN resolutions against South Africa proves the complicity of the Western powers with the racists and their backing of the repression, crimes and abuses which Pretoria commits against the African masses.

The imperialist backing of the South African regime at the same time is the primary cause of the tension that prevails in the southern cone of Africa, which threatens even world peace.

Those who in Washington and other capitalist capitals demagogically talk about the need to respect human rights are the same ones who are arming the racists of South Africa and are supplying them with nuclear plants, missiles and other destructive equipment.

However, the peoples of Africa and of the entire world are perfectly aware of this situation. They know that the principal enemy, imperialism, is hiding behind the immediate enemy, the racist Pretoria regime. They know that, to achieve a future of freedom, justice and peace, there is no other way except the struggle against imperialism, neocolonialism and racism. And the day will come when the people will have the final word, demanding an accounting from those who are endeavoring to sustain so much oppression and putting an end to all regimes of oppression, exploitation and slavery in Africa and anywhere in the world.

CUBA REAFFIRMS SOLIDARITY WITH PALESTINIAN PEOPLE

FL161013Y Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 16 May 78 FL

[Excerpts] The national main event on the occasion of the international day of solidarity with the Palestinian people was held this afternoon at the Havana City fishing port. Scores of workers of that important fishing industry installation participated in the demonstration of solidarity with the just cause of the Palestinian people.

Insam Salim, Palestine Liberation Organization representative in Cuba, and Nivaldo Ferrera, president of the Cuban Radio and Television Institute and vice president of the Cuban-Arab Friendship Association, spoke at this activity.

The Palestinian leader began his remarks with a historic outline of the struggle of his people, who since the early decades of this century confronted the intentions of British imperialism in founding a Jewish state at the expense of Palestinian territory, an event that materialized in 1948.

The vice president of the Cuban-Arab Friendship Association expressed himself in similar terms in his closing remarks. Nivaldo Herrera pointed out that the attempted separate peace is a smokescreen by the Israeli politicians designed to keep for themselves the occupied Arab territories.

Nivaldo Herrera reiterated the Cuban state's viewpoints on a solution to the so-called Palestine problem in particular and to the situation in the Middle East in general. Israel, he said, must withdraw from the Arab territory occupied in the 1967 war and the formation of a proper and independent Palestinian state must be guaranteed. These are points which Cuba has set fourth clearly and firmly.

Lastly Nivaldo Herrera reaffirmed the militant solidarity and friendship which the Cuban people feel toward the Palestinian cause.

VOCATIONAL MILITARY SCHOOL HANDED OVER TO NAVY

FL161203Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1045 GMT 16 May 78 FL

[Text] A Camilo Cienfuegos vocational military school has been delivered to the Revolutionary Navy at a ceremony in which Vice Adm Aldo Santamaria Cuadrado, member of the PCC Central Committee and deputy minister-chief of the Revolutionary Navy, made the closing remarks.

PCC Politburo members Carlos Rafael Rodriguez and Armando Hart, members of the Central Committee, commanders and officers of the Revolutionary Armed Forces--FAR, state agencies officials, representatives of the builders of the school and relatives of the students presided over the ceremony.

The new school of the Giron-3 type has 14 classrooms, including laboratories and other specialized rooms. It also has installations for the staff and recreational facilities for the students.

Vice Adm Aldo Santamaria pointed out in his closing remarks that the school has special significance because the navy is receiving it in the year when it will commemorate its 25th anniversary, in the year of the 11th World Youth and Student Festival and 25th anniversary of the attack of Moncada. He stressed that parents and school staff personnel must help with their joint efforts so that students will obtain the greatest successes at the school and observe the best conduct and highest discipline.

He said the school has broad possibilities and prospects for boys and girls and that these possibilities and prospects are encouraging as well as unlimited for the future work in our Revolutionary Navy. The FAR vice minister stressed that navy units are equipped with powerful and modern equipment in which electronics and mechanics prevail, thus requiring qualified workers, technicians and engineers in various specialties. We could say, he told the students, that you are our continuators. However, what we really feel is that you are the initiators, the ones who will always perpetuate the navy as one of "fatherland or death."

CULTURAL SECTOR POLITICAL TRAINING CENTER OPENS

FL161615Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 16 May 78 FL

[Text] Deputy Minister of Culture Quintin Pino Machado has inaugurated the cultural sector's political training center in this capital. Classes on political economics and Marxist-Leninist philosophy will be taught for a year. A total of 120 students will attend the first course including officials of the Culture Ministry, the Cultural Workers Trade Union, and the National Union of Writers and Artists of Cuba, as well as technicians and artists.

Pino Machado noted the importance of in-depth study of proletarian theory and congratulated the first selected students for their political and work attributes to undergo the training.

BRIEFS

NEWSPAPER ANNIVERSARY--A ceremony has been held in Havana City to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the founding of the newspaper HOY. The ceremony, attended by PCC Politburo member and National People's Government Assembly President Blas Roca Caldeiro, was held at the Jose Marti National Library, included an exhibit of HOY issues. During the ceremony, HOY's role was described. The event was attended by, among others, Dr Rolando Alvarez, deputy director of the national library. [Text] [Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 17 May 78 FL]

ELECTION POLLING GENERALLY CONDUCTED CALMLY

PA162320Y Madrid EFE in Spanish 2225 GMT 16 May 78 PA

[By Rosendo Sepulveda]

[Excerpts] Santo Domingo, 16 May (EFE)--At the close of the election polls set by the Central Electoral Board for 1800, practically 100 percent of the 2,282,611 Dominican voters had cast their votes.

During the morning and afternoon the atmosphere was completely calm and normal. The voters waited in long lines to cast their votes while police and soldiers wearing armbands with the initials of the Central Electoral Board watched each poll from a distance.

Today's calm contrasts with a series of rumors circulating in Santo Domingo last night regarding possible intentional blackouts today and even coups d'etat.

One of the few inconveniences was that some persons could not vote in the polling booths to which they were originally assigned and had to be sent to others in or near the area because their names were not in the registry of the polling booth.

Nevertheless, at mid-morning, when it was notified of the situation, the Central Electoral Board issued a statement that was continuously read over radio and television stations telling the presidents of the polling booths that they should accept all those who presented themselves and belonged to the area but to place their votes in the "observation" envelopes. [sentence as received]

At a voting precinct located in the "Ciudad Nueva," a middle class residential sector, the progovernment Reformist Party (PR) and the opposition Dominican Revolutionary Party (PRD) delegates had a dispute and were on the verge of fighting. The precinct president had to ask the public forces to intervene in order to calm down the participants.

It was reported from San Francisco de Macoris in central Cibao that the voting developed normally throughout the province and in other neighboring towns. However, it has been reported from Santiago that opposition leaders have not been able to vote because their names do not appear on the lists drafted by the Central Electoral Board.

In Puerto Plata, in the northwest, the situation was reported normal as of 1400; people voted calmly. The same was reported in the southern towns of Bani and San Cristobal.

REUTER: Vote Counting Halted

London REUTER in English 1129 GMT 17 May 78 WA

[Text] Santo Domingo, 17 May, REUTER--Troops moved in and halted counting in the Dominican Republic presidential elections early today after voting trends showed the opposition taking a clear lead over incumbent President Joaquin Balaguer, witnesses said.

VI. 17 May 78

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DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

EFE Reports Possible Coup

PA171318Y Madrid EFE in Spanish 1304 GMT 17 May 78 PA

[Text] Santo Domingo, 17 May (EFE)--Everything seems to indicate that the Dominican Republic is going through the initial stages of a coup d'etat in the wake of the military's decision to interrupt the counting of votes from yesterday's presidential elections, in which the opposition had a considerable lead.

Radio stations have interrupted their regular programs and are broadcasting classical music.

Unconfirmed rumors are circulating to the effect that President of the Central Electoral Board Manuel Joaquin Castillo had been "invited" to accompany several officials, without stating where.

Earlier, at 0500 local time, the military had occupied the board's tally center and evicted all the persons who were in it.

At 0800 no newspaper was out yet.

Meanwhile, citizens are going to work, although they are visibly disconcerted over the lack of news.

Balaguer, Opposition Under Arrest

OW171403Y Paris AFP in English 1403 GMT 17 May 78 OW

[Text] Port-au-Prince, Haiti, May 17 (AFP)--A coup d'etat was staged today in the Dominican Republic, the radio here reported today. And President Joaquin Balaguer and presidential opposition candidate Antonio Guzman were believed under house arrest. The radio said the leader of the putsch was the chief of police.

Ministry Communique Denies Coup

PA171426Y Madrid EFE in Spanish 1411 GMT 17 May 78 PA

[Text] Santo Domingo, 17 May (EFE)--In view of insistent coup rumors circulating in this capital since early this morning, the Armed Forces Ministry has issued the following communique:

"The armed forces inform the public that the rumors circulated by the enemies of peace, by those who sadistically enjoy sowing unrest and restlessness in the Dominican family, to the effect that the military institutions are planning a coup against the legitimately established government, are totally false."

The communique adds: "Our armed institutions, as has been proclaimed categorically by their illustrious commander in chief and high command, will never depart from the limits reserved for them in the normal exercise of their functions and will firmly uphold their oath of loyalty to the republic and their unshakable duty to maintain order and preserve our democratic institutions."

"[Signed] All for the fatherland. Juan Rene Beauchamps Javier, lieutenant general of the national army, secretary of state of the armed forces; Santo Domingo, National District, 17 May 1978"

JAMAICA

CONSTRUCTION BRIGADE TO STUDY IN CUBA

FL111430Y Kingston DAILY GLEANER in English 8 May 78 p 2 FL

[Text] Housing Minister the Hon. Anthony Spaulding has told the latest construction brigade to Cuba that it has his hope that there association with the Cuban people would help them to become more disciplined and more mature.

On the eve of their departure for the one-year stay in Cuba on Tuesday, Mr. Spaulding urged the 100-strong brigade to take their skill training seriously and to perfect these skills so as to help in the development of the housing sector on their return.

Reminding them of government's commitment to the right of every citizen to proper food, shelter and education, the minister said that the training brigadistas received in Cuba would continue to be a success in terms of skill training acquired and personal development.

Potential

He said that the brigade system had the potential of replacing the big contractor system, but this could only be achieved if the brigadistas developed their skills and meant serious business.

Mr. Spaulding said it might not be possible for government to provide employment for all members of the brigade on their return, given the economic state prevailing, but a number of them would be employed on the Riverton City redevelopment project, and on other construction sites where possible.

The group was also addressed by Mr. Don McGraham, a member of the construction brigade advisory committee to the minister. Miss Claudette Rose chaired the function and brigade leader Michael Commack said thanks.

NETHERLANDS WILL PROVIDE DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE

FL151815Y Kingston DAILY GLEANER in English 12 May 78 p 22 FL

[Text] Jamaica is to receive development assistance in the sum of 18 million guilders (U.S. \$8.1 million) for the financial year 1978/79 from the Government of the Netherlands. A five-man mission has arrived in the island to discuss the areas to which the money will be allocated, according to the API [Agency for Public Information].

The mission began discussions on Monday with Jamaican officials and will continue until today.

This is the fourth consecutive year that Jamaica has received such assistance and this will bring the total Netherlands assistance to Jamaica under the development cooperation programme to 60 million guilders.

Under the programme, which began in 1975, the Netherlands Government has also made available a supplementary allocation of 20 million guilders in 1977 to enable Jamaica to purchase critical raw materials.

The main sectors of the Jamaica economy that have benefited so far from Netherlands assistance have been agriculture, education and housing.

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